



July 2011
Happy 4th of July!!!



A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park

The Rescue of Baby Hummer



Day 2 - the little camper "straw feeding"
Baby Hummer in the tree; put yourself
in her shoes - totally awesome.



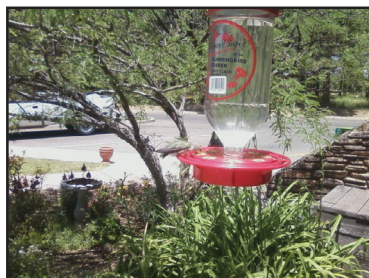
Day 3 - Baby Hummer on the feeder (it
flew there and landed by itself, after a
few practice flights during day 2, but
didn't quite know what to do.

One windy morning a ranger (Tony) found a baby hummingbird on the sidewalk in front of the ranger station. He brought it into the office and showed it to a second ranger (Margie), who said "how are we going to feed it?" Being the intuitive ranger that he is, Ranger Tony put some sugar water in a cup, found a stir straw and dribbled the "food" down the baby hummer's throat - just like a good daddy bird would do. A few minutes passed and Ranger Margie went to feed the baby hummer again, but this time it put its beak and tongue inside the stir straw to get the "food". To keep a good eye on it, it was placed on the office desk where a third ranger (Justin) snuggled a shirt around the little bird to keep it warm. They continued to feed it through out the day with the stir straw. As the day went on, Baby Hummer started to test out it's wings. Not wanting the bird to discover his flight range inside the office, Ranger Margie put it on a hummingbird feeder (on the ground) outside in the flower bed, but continued to "straw feed" it periodically (because it had positioned itself backwards on the feeder). A volunteer (Jeri) offered it a few different flowers to see if it would feed "naturally on it's own". It did, on pansies, but preferred to be straw fed as it moved from the feeder (on the ground) up to a flower stem, then to a low hanging stick/branch of the Mesquite tree. All wondered how it would fair through the stormy night...

The next morning Baby Hummer was discovered high up in the Mesquite tree, chirping to be fed. Again, the rangers "straw fed" it. Ranger Justin showed a young girl, who was camping with her Dad, how to feed the Baby Hummer - something she will remember the rest of her life, no doubt.

*ps If you're thinking "how do you know it's the same bird?" We know because (among other observations)
Baby Hummer's beak is shorter than any other bird
at the feeders. Margie Sanchez, Park Ranger*

*Baby Hummer (day 7) on the hummingbird
feeder ... feeding itself. You can see how
much he has matured. Yeah Baby hummer!
You did it! You're a survivor! Good Job!*



Fishing Clinic! Free admission for those participating at DHRSP



On Saturday June 4th both young and old attended this year's "Free Fishing Day" at Dead Horse Ranch State Park. The event was very well received, and attracted over 145 participants. Arizona Game and Fish, as well as Arizona SP staff & volunteers were on hand to provide instruction to first-time fishermen. Loaner fishing rods, bait and tackle were also available at no charge. Free Fishing Days were celebrated on June 4 and June 11, as part of National Fishing and Boating Week, and no fishing licenses were required for persons fishing any public waters in AZ.

*Story submitted by Ranger Eric Buzonas, photos
submitted by Ranger Max Castillo*



*AZ Game & Fish Officer snaps a photo of local
Cottonwood youngster, Aaron Jackson. Aaron visits
Dead Horse Ranch on a weekly basis. He enjoys
both fishing and mountain biking.*

Gila Monster Appears at DHRSP

A Banded Gila Monster, *Heloderma suspectum*, recently made a rare appearance at DHRSP. The attractively colored lizard was found on the main road near the contact station, where Ranger Eric and Volunteer Gale acted as crossing guards, escorting him safely on his way. Although two forms of this heavily bodied lizard occur in Arizona, the range of the Reticulated Gila Monster is to the south of the Verde Valley. The Banded form, which showed up here, is usually restricted to northwestern and western Arizona, primarily in the Colorado River drainage, including the Grand Canyon. Unnamed, well-placed sources have voiced suspicion the lizard almost certainly hitchhiked his (her) way to the park. If she (he) survives in the park, he (she) will certainly grow old all by her (him) self, a Lonesome George or Georgette.

Adult Gila Monsters may reach 14" in length, making them the largest lizard native to the United States. They belong to the only family of venomous lizards in the world. Gila monsters are thought to spend more than 90% of their lives underground, are very slow moving, and entirely unaggressive. They eat bird and reptile eggs, small birds, lizards, mammals, and carrion.

Sightings are rare and bitten humans rarer still, and even then seldom fatal. There have been seven recorded deaths from Gila Monster bites since 1878, and none after 1930. Virtually all bite victims have been male, all were handling captive animals, and alcohol was involved in most of the cases.

Unlike rattlesnakes, Gila Monsters must chew to envenomate their prey. The lizard's venom is unlike snake venom, but must be treated with respect. Human bites are extremely painful, cause major system distress, and must be quickly treated, but will almost certainly not be fatal. The law forbids Gila Monsters being handled, collected, or killed throughout their entire range in the United States and Mexico, so there is really no reason for a person to be bitten or envenomated.

Submitted by Jon L. Hawker, husband of Volunteer Pat Hawker



Gila monsters are not native to this area, so how this one ended up here is a mystery. photo submitted by Randy Victory, Park Ranger II



photo submitted by volunteer Gale Schmidt

Giant Crayfish Attacks Bill LaFleur!!



While fishing for bass at the East Lagoon on June 7th 2011, Bill LaFleur got himself into a bit of a "pinch". "It was really quite amazing!" remarked LaFleur. "I was leisurely casting into the water, and suddenly felt a nudge against my ankle... I turned around to look, and there was this MONSTER CRAWDAD grabbing my ham and cheese sandwich from my tackle box. The thing was enormous! The last time I saw one this big was out at sea near the coast of Japan! The Japanese people called it Crawzilla! This may be of the same genus. Volunteer Pat Hawker is checking into this for me." Luckily Bill was able to fend it off with a pitchfork. After a mighty struggle, the injured creature retreated into the murky depths of the East Lagoon, leaving nothing more than a swirl of water mingled with bits and pieces of ham and cheese sandwich.

*story submitted by Eric Buzonas`
photo submitted by Nan Hephner*

Rattlesnake Encounter!

Rattlesnake around the corner. Just wanted to share this little guy with the news letter. Goes to show you never know what's waiting around the corner...



*Good thing it was asleep!
photo by Ranger Margie Sanchez*

This strange creature, SAAR, was recently spotted at DHRSP. We have monitored the species over the past year and determined its range is from Quail Loop to the Yavapai-Apache Casino, Camp Verde. The Saar can deforest acres upon acres of tumbleweeds in a single day. The male Saar is notorious for staying up into the wee hours of the night, calling out to its kinfolk via ham radio transmissions.*

**South American Arthurian Rabbit*



submitted by Eric

Cub Scouts Camp at DHRSP

*In late May, Cub Scout Pack #323 set up camp in Raven Loop Campground. Pack #323 is based out of Phoenix, Arizona. Merit badges were earned, and fun was had by all!
photo submitted by Gale Schmidt*



Cool Idea!



Park Manager George Christianson gives the final inspection before reopening Cabin #1 to the public.

On May 23, 2011 each cabin at DHRSP received a brand-new wall mounted air-conditioning unit and heater. Well actually, they already had plenty of heat! Temperatures soared to 98 degrees!

"Heat and AC units will enable us to provide our visitors with a more comfortable camping experience year around," remarked Park Manager George Christianson (pictured above). "We've already noticed a slight increase in revenue and attendance since we installed the units, and 'the word' really hasn't gotten out to the public yet."

To absorb the cost of electricity, the cabin rates have been increased from \$50.00 per night to \$55.00.



story and photos by Ranger Eric

Eagle Scout Project Completed!



BSA Eagle Scout: Blake Kinkade

On June 15, 2011 sixteen-year-old Blake Kinkade completed two ADA accessible walkways for Cabins #6 and #7 at DHRSP. By completing the walkways, he also completed something much bigger: The highly coveted Boy Scouts of America "Eagle Scout" badge. Blake Kinkade began scouting at 8 years old and still remembers his first Cub Scout meeting. "It was with Jan Wills, she was my first Scoutmaster," he said.

The highest award in Scouting in the US is the "Eagle" badge (representative of the American Eagle).

Patty Blake mused over her son's recent accomplishment from a nearby picnic table. "Yes it's been quite a ride," she said. Blake's mother has been by his side supporting his endeavors in some capacity ever since he started. Both Blake and his mother recalled cherished memories of camping trips, scout camps, and pinewood derbies. Some of their fondest memories included trips to Lake Powell and Kartchner Caverns. Through scouting, Blake has made lasting friendships, lasting memories, and honed his self-confidence by participating in a wide range of outdoor activities, educational programs, and outreach-partnerships.

*story and photos submitted by Ranger Eric Buzonas
hard work, dedication, integrity by Blake Kinkade*

New to the AZ SP Newsletter

<http://azstateparks.com/volunteer/sites.html#DEHO>
Grids of opportunities for the volunteers: Recruit your friends, neighbors, families, strangers, and whoever looks like they would love the life we do in helping DHRSP stay viable and continue to operate for the community.

"Thinking of You!"

Eric Going in for a new right side Hip (June 7th) so I should be able to come back to work for you and the Park on the first of November, (if you'll have me) ??? Hope you and the family are doing well. Have a good summer. Quail # 42, Carl Hartman

Hi Carl! Have no fear, you are confirmed to come back Nov 1st thru April 2012. Eric

6-8-2011 Just to let you all know Gary came through the surgery with flying colors and is healing quickly. Not much of a facelift but a big attitude lift!!! The Doctor feels that it is not cancer, but will not be sure until next week when the report comes back. He is doing well and looking forward to the summer. Glad we came home and could get this taken care of so quickly, less than a month after we got home. Will continue to keep you all posted as soon as we hear back on the report.

6-14-2011 Hi all! Gary saw his ENT Dr. today and got a clean bill of health. The tumor was benign and he will not need any further medical treatments for it. We are so happy to finally know that and glad we came home and got it taken care of. All of you will be happy to know this and now Gary and I can get on with our life. We will continue to keep track of his health, but it should be easier now. Love to all and thank you all so much for your thoughts and prayers. Sharon Munson



Volunteer News Coming

* Welcome Gerry & Jan Colburn! Quail Loop Campground July 1st

Going

* No one!



Dates to Remember

7/4 - Happy 4th of July!

7/11 - Volunteer Meeting, 9:30 am, VRG studio

7/25 - Volunteer Meeting, 9:30 am, VRG studio

July Milestones

1-Seldon "Bob" Nason

2-Helen Kemp

6-Bud & Loma Jenkins (1986)

7-Barbie Hart

9-Ray Serba

14-Del Foster

16-John Ward

20-William & Janet Birtwell (1985)

21-Maryann Harris

23-Carolyn McCartney

27-Susan B Beach

Volunteer Judy Schmidt gets a kiss from Pedro during a visit to the Gold Mine in Jerome.



George and family, From our experience at Dead Horse, it wasn't bad... in fact, we enjoyed the people and the place. We also enjoy Kartchner Caverns SP and plan to return in Oct for the winter. Right now we are in IL with our daughter and family awaiting the arrival of our first great granddaughter in July. Our other daughter and family are still in N.M. Sue Neal

Hi Everyone- We made it back to Maine after some nerve-wracking time in the mid-west. We're glad to be back at Seawall Campground and opening day is tomorrow. We've been busy since arriving on 5/9/11 splitting wood, raking the site, and picking up slash. Best wishes to you all! Jan & Bill Birtwell